

Promotion of mangrove forests in Orissa

244. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to establish National Mangrove Genetic Resource Centre in Orissa at Regional Plant Resource Centre Ekmarakanan, Bhubaneswar; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project, its aims and objectives;

(c) whether it is a fact that mangrove forests work as a protective barrier against cyclones; if so, what are areas identified for development of mangrove forests; and

(d) the amount sanctioned for sea-shore coastal plantation from Balasore Digha up to Berhampur in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Task Force constituted by the Ministry to assess the damage caused to Mangrove areas in Orissa due to Super Cyclone of October, 1999 recommended establishment of a Mangrove Genetic Centre in Kalibhanj Dia Mangrove area of the Bhitarkanka Sanctuary of Orissa. A proposal received from Director, Regional Plant Resource Centre, Bhubaneswar was considered by the National Committee on Mangroves and Coral Reefs during February, 2000. Government of Orissa has designated Chief Wild Life Warden, Orissa, as the Implementing Agency for this Centre. Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been released to the State Forest Department for preparatory activities related to this Centre during 1999-2000.

(c) Mangroves protect coastal areas during cyclones. Ministry has identified 30 mangrove areas in the country for intensive protection, conservation and management. State-wise list of these areas is given in Statement (See below).

(d) An amount of Rs. 441.09 lakhs has been sanctioned for

[23 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

undertaking coastal shelterbelt plantation in Orissa during the current financial year.

Statement

State-wise list of Mangrove areas identified for Conservation and Management

Sl. No.	State/UT	Mangrove Area
1.	West Bengal	Sunderbans
2.	Orissa	Bhitarkanika Mahanadi Subernarekha Devi Dhamra
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Coringa East Godavari Krishan
4.	Tamil Nadu	Pichavaram Muthupet Ramnad
5.	Andaman & Nicobar	North Andamans Nicobar
6.	Keral	Vembanad
7.	Karnataka	Coondapur Dakshin Kannada
8.	Goa	Goa
9.	Maharashtra	Devgarh-Vijay Durg Veldur Revdanda Mumbra-Diva Vikroli Shreevardhan Vaitarna Kundalika Vasai-Manori

Sl. No.	State/UT	Mangrove Area
10.	Gujarat	Gulf of Kutchh Gulf of Khambat
11.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry

Upkeep of food stuff for zoo animals

†245. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that gross negligence is being committed in the upkeep of food stuffs and other facilities for animals in most of the zoos in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating some effective and concrete steps for improving the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) There have been complaints regarding food being stored and given to animals under unhygienic conditions, and the enclosures of animals not being congenial to the health of the animals. Zoos have been directed by the Central Zoo Authority for improving the housing and upkeep of the animals and making appropriate arrangement for storage and food supply to animals. 100% assistance is provided to zoos by the Central Zoo Authority for this purpose.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.